

# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Small church shows positive characteristics

By Gary E. Farley  
SBC Home Mission Board

More than 11,000 congregations of Southern Baptists have fewer than 150 members. About 18,500 congregations will have fewer than 65 persons attending Sunday School.

In Mississippi, there are 720 churches with less than 150 members, according to the 1995 convention annual. There are 1,182 churches with fewer than 65 persons in Sunday School.

Careful study has identified a dozen characteristics which seem more prominent in smaller churches.

### 1. A single cell, not a complex organization

All participants identify as a part of the whole church, not as a part of a subdivision. Organization is not by committee but by assignments of task. Events involve the whole congregation, not one segment. Decision-making is more like that of a family than a business. This characteristic is listed first, because it is most pivotal.

### 2. A critical mass

If participation drops below 40 persons, a group may not be able to perform the basic functions of church because it lacks the "critical mass." (Some would set that figure at 60, others as low as 25.) If the group grows beyond 40, it will likely develop a second cell.

Here, a smaller congregation

begins to take on the characteristics of larger churches. In some contexts a congregation may need help in adjusting to this significant and sometimes traumatic change in the nature of the body.

### 3. Pastoral leadership

The pastor of a small church is a "hands-on" leader. Royce Rose calls him a "caring shepherd." Carl Dudley identifies him as "lover," and Tex Sample says he is like the "ward healer" of a city political machine.

He is a generalist. He meets the felt needs (spiritual, social, psychological and material) of his people. He walks with his people. He understands and cares. He ministers.

### 4. Worship

Many small churches see their primary function as worship. They come together for proclamation, prayer, and praise. Other activities may be seen as extraneous.

### 5. The event is the thing

In large churches, programs are carried out by following a process. Once the machinery is in place, things proceed year after year.

Students of smaller churches suggest they operate in terms of projects or events.

Revivals, homecomings, Easter sunrise services, Christmas programs — these are the stuff of small church life, more than weekly or monthly programs.

### 6. Projects

Small churches work best through projects. They see a need — such as putting on a new roof, or buying a new organ — they raise the money, do the work, and that's that. Therefore, the basic functions

of church may be accomplished best in small churches by relying more on projects and less on programs.

### 7. Lack of intentionality

Small churches generally do not do annual or long-range planning. Therefore, they tend to be traditional and reactive rather than proactive.

### 8. Locally owned and operated

The smaller church does not see itself as a franchise of that denomination. It sorts what comes down from denominational headquarters and uses what it wants to use. Church ownership is in the hands of the laity.

suitable for kinship.

Bonding occurs as the new person learns the "story" of past events and becomes involved in preparation for future ones.

### 11. Resistant to change

Most small churches and their leadership have outlived most other community institutions. They either feel OK about themselves, or are defensive about their smallness in a world that praises bigness. They may resist efforts to change because change may suggest past failure.

### 12. Limited resources

In a small congregation it is

### SMALLER CHURCHES ARE EFFICIENT

- ◆ The percentage of members involved in Sunday School and Church Training is higher.
- ◆ Smaller churches baptize a higher ratio of persons to membership.
- ◆ The ratio of resident to non-resident members is better.
- ◆ Smaller churches give a high percentage to area missions activities.
- ◆ Smaller churches are a very different "breed" than larger churches. Different does not mean inferior.

Source: Gary Farley, SBC Home Mission Board

### 9. People centered

Weekly events, such as Sunday School and worship, are seen as gatherings of the clan. Is everyone present or accounted for? How is each person's health? What has happened to each person this past week? Emotions, feelings and relationships are foremost. "Who" is more important than "what." Even the stigmatized are accepted as "ours."

### 10. Membership

One may join a larger church by joining only some of its programs. In a smaller church one has to be adopted into the family or clan, and not everyone is

possible that certain necessary skills may not be resident. This may be complicated by the nearby presence of a large, well-resourced church, resulting in a sense of inferiority on the part of the smaller church.

However, small churches have learned how to make do. They are survivors.

Southern Baptists are beginning to attempt to deal with smaller churches in terms of who they are. Instead of calling them to change and become small imitations of larger churches, we need to provide resources which fit their unique characteristics.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

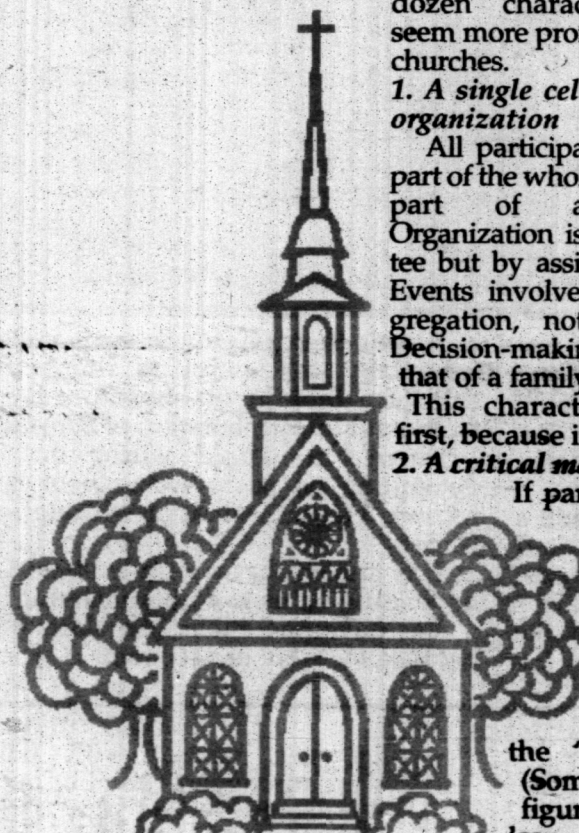
Bob Nance, local ACTS board chairman in Cleveland, believes in promoting the American Christian Television System. His new personalized license tag, which says ACTS, will be a rolling billboard to promote the network throughout the state.

#### 20 years ago

Mississippi Baptists give more to worldwide mission causes in 1976 than ever before, announces Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer of the state convention board. Gifts through the Cooperative Program total \$7,237,025, a 10.8% increase over 1975.

#### 30 years ago

The Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association will meet Feb. 6-7, 1947 at Calvary Church, Jackson. This is its first meeting since organizing in November. S. C. Ray, educational director at Main Street Church, Hattiesburg, is president.



### WHAT'S IN THE RECORD

Flu vaccine recalled

Boomers, busters studied

NAMB structure set

Report from Legislature

### Top ten best sellers

#### HARDBACK

1. *In the Grip of Grace*, Max Lucado (Word)
2. *Making Love Last Forever*, Gary Smalley (Word)
3. *Purpose Driven Church*, Rick Warren (Zondervan)
4. *Hope Again*, Charles Swindoll (Word)
5. *Unto the Hills*, Billy Graham (Word)
6. *Experiencing God*, Henry Blackaby & Claude King (Broadman & Holman)
7. *Glorious Journey*, Charles Stanley (Nelson)
8. *I Was Wrong*, Jim Bakker (Nelson)
9. *The Mind of Christ*, T.W. Hunt (Broadman & Holman)
10. *Man to Man*, Charles Swindoll (Zondervan)

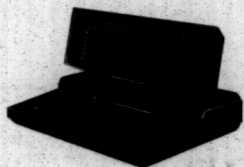
#### PAPERBACK

1. *God Came Near*, Max Lucado (Multnomah)
2. *The Beginning of the End*, John Hagee (Nelson)
3. *Sportin' a Tude*, Patsy Clairmont (Word)
4. *15 Minutes Alone With God*, Emily Barnes (Harvest House)
5. *Meditations for Teachers*, Various (Abingdon Press)
6. *The Five Love Languages*, Gary Chapman (Moody)
7. *Woman, Thou Art Loosed*, T.D. Jakes (Destiny Image)
8. *Right From Wrong*, Josh McDowell (Word)
9. *I'm So Glad You Told Me What I Didn't Want to Hear*, Barbara Johnson (Word)
10. *Financial Planning Workbook*, Larry Burkett (Moody)

Source: Baptist Book Store



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Perkins Jr.**  
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# America's favorite bookshelf ornament

Just what is America's relationship with the Bible?

A recent survey by pollster George Barna provides a rather embarrassing answer to that question.

The survey, commissioned by Tyndale House Publishers, shows that 90% of American homes have at least one Bible on the bookshelves, but only 42% of those surveyed agreed that reading the Bible was important.

"There is undeniably a substantial degree of biblical ignorance in America today," Barna concluded.

About 12% of Bible owners in the survey had no idea what the Bible teaches about life after death, and 72% believed people are blessed by God so they can enjoy life as much as possible.

"This is an American cultural lesson, but certainly at odds with Scripture," Barna said.

Lack of Bible knowledge often ends in tragedy.

Religious madmen such as Jim Jones, who ordered hundreds of his followers to drink poison in the jungles of Guyana, and David Koresh of Waco infamy, prey upon Bible ignorance to twist the gospel message to their own liking and use it to manipulate their followers — often to death.

If people had a firm biblical foundation already in place (Rom 12:2, 1 John 4:1-3), they wouldn't fall for every false prophet who breaks onto the scene with another errant message.

Indeed, there has never been a more urgent period than now in the life of our country when Bible knowledge was so crucial to our future.

An article in the Dec. 26, 1996, edition of the "New York Times" describes the pressure being exerted on the U.S. hotel/motel industry to supplant the Bible with other religious texts in the country's 3.4 million guest rooms.

The Marriott chain, whose namesake founder was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, places the Book of Mormon alongside the Bible.

The Ritz-Carlton in Pasadena, Calif., and the Fountainbleu in Miami allow the "Teaching of Buddha," courtesy of the

Tokyo-based Society for the Promotion of Buddhism.

The Church of Scientology International has placed in guest rooms more than 90,000 copies of "The Way to Happiness" by founder L. Ron Hubbard.

To a lesser but significant extent, "Science and Health" by Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy can now be found in many hotels and motels.

While the article concludes that the Bible is in no danger of being pushed completely out of guest rooms, it quotes the observation of Leander E. Keck, professor of biblical theology at Yale Divinity School, who said, "This reflects the fact that in this diversified culture, the Christian Bible is no longer the single religious text."

That should be enough to make Christians lose sleep. Imagine how difficult it must be for a non-Christian make the right choice, considering the pantheism of our day.

Many pundits believe America is entering a "post-Christian" age, where Jesus Christ is simply another item to be sampled on the cosmic smorgasbord of modern spirituality.

As Bible-believing Southern Baptists, we know better.

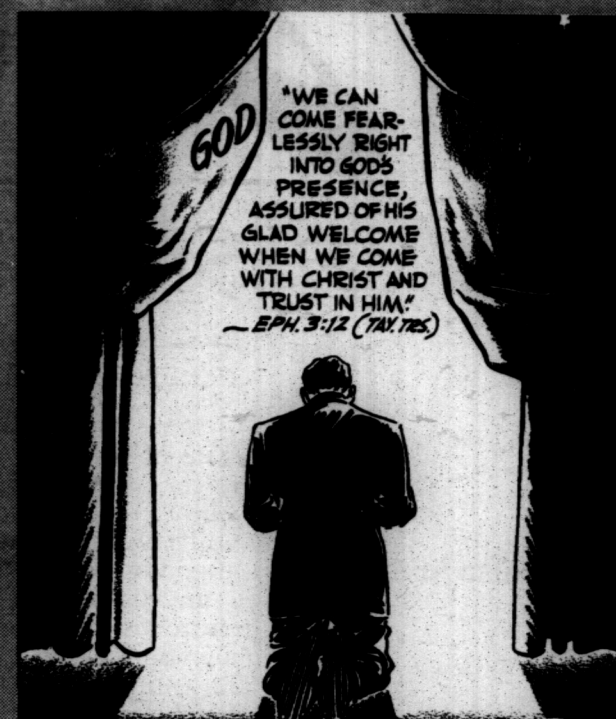
It's up to us to see that everyone in Mississippi and the world has the opportunity to know there is only one God and only one Way to God (John 14:6-7).

Have you done your part? Do you live the Bible every day — every day — as if you believe every word is true?

If you do, you've undoubtedly made a commitment to study and understand God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15), which is a priceless gift from our Heavenly Father.

If you don't, there's no time to start like the present.

In memory of Jack Hamm  
1915 — 1996



DALLAS (BP) — Jack Hamm, an internationally-acclaimed Christian artist and former editorial cartoonist for the "Baptist Standard" of Texas, died Dec. 22 in Dallas after a lengthy heart illness. He was 81.

Hamm distributed gospel cartoons and illustrations to magazines and newspapers — including "The Baptist Record" — free of charge beginning in the 1960's.

Hamm, a graduate of Baylor University and member of First Church, Dallas, also wrote and illustrated more than 25 books.

He is survived by his wife Doris, of Dallas; two sons; two daughters; and eight grandchildren.

Just as Sunday church is no substitute for a daily walk with God, simple ownership of a Bible is no substitute for daily study and implementation of Scripture.

There's a whole world out there depending on us to show them how to receive eternal salvation through Jesus Christ.

It is crucial that we understand God is depending on us to accomplish this task.

We have the Bible. We dare not fail because we were unprepared.

## GUEST OPINION:

### Is Hollywood listening?

By C.C. Risenhoover,

Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission

"I don't know what the lessons are here, except we're making a lot of movies that people don't want to see."

For Baehr, the lessons are more easily understood. In 1995, the average gross receipts of G-rated movies were 250% more than those of R-rated films, and the PG-13-rated movies were 213% more than those with an R-rating.

Baehr said 40% of the top ten box office grossing films feature films for the U.S. and Canada for 1995 featured Christian and biblical principles, themes, or worldviews.

"There were 209% more

movies with Christian themes, characters, and worldviews in the top 25 hits in 1995 than there were in 1994. Movies that featured a strong Christian worldview earned an average of 269% more than movies that had anti-Christian elements, and 133% more than movies with strong New Age or occult elements," Baehr said.

Despite all this, in the 1993 television season the Media Research Center found that negative references to clergy outnumbered positive ones (by a margin of) four to one.

The same study found that portrayals of lay believers was

even worse, with 68% of churchgoers on TV depicted negatively and only 18% presented positively.

Baehr made reference to a 1995 "USA Today"/CNN/Gallup poll: "A startling 63% of those polled felt that the federal government should become involved in restricting the sex and violence presented by the entertainment industry. The figure shows the degree of concern about the influence of movies and entertainment."

"The entertainment industry should adopt standards so that it can regulate itself. Furthermore, the entertainment industry should work with CFTC, the Southern Baptist RTVC, and other concerned groups to appeal to the broadest possible audience in order to fend off government censorship," Baehr said.

For more information on "Beam" magazine or this subject, contact RTVC at 6350 West Freeway, Fort Worth, TX 76150.



"No cause for concern..."

## Flu vaccine recall includes MC Health Fair

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The influenza vaccine administered Oct. 29 at the Mississippi College (MC) School of Nursing Health Fair during the Mississippi Baptist Convention has been recalled but does not pose a danger to those who received the vaccine, according to a Jan. 2 press release from the Baptist-affiliated school.

The nationwide recall of the Parke-Davis vaccine was ordered after the company discovered the immunization was too weak to provide the expected level of protection against the flu.

The company has assured users that the specific lots being recalled were not contaminated and are not a health risk, but simply failed to fully immunize

users against influenza.

"The information which MC School of Nursing has received both from Parke-Davis and our drug distributor indicates that there is no cause for concern or reimmunization except among a select group of high-risk individuals," the press release stated.

According to information supplied by MC, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in Washington, D.C., and the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta have recommended reimmunization for individuals in the following categories:

- ◆ age 65 and over.
- ◆ residents of nursing homes and other chronic care facilities that house people with chronic medical conditions.
- ◆ patients with chronic lung or heart disorders.

◆ patients who have chronic metabolic diseases, including diabetes mellitus; renal (kidney) dysfunction; hemoglobinopathies (blood diseases); or suppressed immune systems.

◆ pediatric patients and young adults (age six months to 18 years) receiving long-term aspirin therapy, which puts them at risk of contracting Reye's Syndrome after influenza.

The influenza vaccine administered to employees and retirees of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in early October 1996 by Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (MBMC) was supplied by another company and is not part of the recall, said MBMC spokesman Bill Moak.

"Wyeth Laboratories manufactured the vaccine we used,

and we have not been notified of any Wyeth recalls," Moak said.

People who were vaccinated at the MC School of Nursing Health Fair at the Mississippi Baptist Convention on Oct. 29, can contact the school at (601) 925-3278 for more information.

The MC press release noted that individuals in high-risk categories who received the Parke-Davis vaccine at the Health Fair and wish to be reimmunized at no cost should also contact the school.

THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE

THE BAPTIST  
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## Miss. Baptist youth pack MC coliseum

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

The theme, "How Deep is the Love of Christ," could be seen on T-shirts all over A. E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College (MC) in Clinton on Dec. 30-31, as approximately 3,000 Mississippi Baptist youth gathered for the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference.

While decision cards are still being processed, S. A. "Sonny" Adkins, director of the Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, indicated there were 20 or more young people seeking counsel after the invitation.

As many as seven youth may have made first-time professions of faith, he added.

Keith Naylor of Stone Mountain, Ga., the featured speaker, challenged the young people to experience God even through

the difficulties and pain of life.

Naylor is with Zacchaeus Ministry in Stone Mountain, a non-denominational coffee house ministry in the Atlanta area.

Paul Horton, music evangelist from Lithia Springs, Ga., led the music, with Wes King of Warsaw, Ind., and his band presenting a Monday evening concert.

Dramatists Randall and Arinee' Glass, of Boynton Beach, Fla., known as "Mog and Wog," led in humorous and inspirational worship.

"Mog and Wog," which stands for "Man of God and Woman of God," challenged each student to give their all for Christ. They were assisted by Cliff Turner, also of Fla.

MC provided a hospitality room for program personalities and a free continental breakfast on Tuesday morning to participants.

The Youth Evangelism Conference is sponsored by the



A crowd of approximately 3,000 Mississippi Baptist youth clap their hands and sing at the Youth Evangelism Conference, held in A. E. Wood Coliseum on the Mississippi College campus over the Christmas break. (Photos by Carl M. White)

Evangelism Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and planned by the Youth Evangelism Conference Committee.

Committee members for the 1996 conference included: Jim Lott, First Church, Pearl; Harvey Ellis, First Church, Clinton; Tom Daniel, First Church, Starkville; Jon Daniels, First Church, Jackson; Susan Heiden, Country Woods Church, Jackson; Don Gann, Wynndale Church, Jackson; and Patsy Bozeman, secretary, MBCB Evangelism Department.

The 1997 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference is scheduled for Dec. 29-30, 1997, in A. E. Wood Coliseum on the MC campus in Clinton.

For more information contact the MBCB Evangelism Department at P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.



Mississippi Baptist youth raise their hands before a smoke-encircled stage as concert artist Wes King and band perform on Monday evening of the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference at A. E. Wood Coliseum on the Mississippi College campus.



Dramatists "Mog and Wog" (Randall and Arinee' Glass), along with their assistant Cliff Turner (right), lead young people in a worship experience at First Church, Clinton, during a breakaway session of the 1996 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference. "Mog and Wog" stands for "Man of God and Woman of God."



# Boomers, busters define ministry challenge

## ANALYSIS:

By Carl M. White  
Associate Editor

Part one of a  
two part series

They are "the first truly post-Christian generation of our culture."

These are the words used to describe the Baby Busters in a new book by Todd Hahn and David Verhaagen entitled, "Reckless Hope: Understanding and Reaching Baby Busters."

"Challengers" is how Gary L. McIntosh, theology professor at Talbot School of Theology in La Mirada, California, described the Baby Boomers in his book, "Three Generations: Riding the Waves of Change in Your Church."

Boomers have challenged

arts baccalaureate degree.

In contrast, Baby Busters are more likely to seek an education that prepares them for a specific trade.

They have specialized in computers, health-related fields, and other high tech areas.

Both groups are intolerant of incompetence and the lack of excellence in education, which means churches must give special attention to quality in Sunday School and other educational programs in order to reach these generations.

◆ **Entertainment:** The parents of Boomers started the habit of taking an annual vacation.

Disneyland was completed in 1955. Predicting failure, critics asked who would go to Walt Disney's park when they could go to the county fair?

Disney foresaw that Boomers and their parents wanted a variety of new experiences.

Entertainment has been a powerful part of their cultural experience.

If Baby Boomers experienced new avenues of entertainment, the Busters expect new avenues of entertainment.

Baby Busters are the most entertained generation in history. They want and expect top quality entertainment experiences.

The closer to reality, the better. These are the first latch-key kids, and the first generation to be met at home by the TV.

Both generations have short

attention spans. The marketing world has discovered that they show little brand loyalty.

Music and other forms of media have played a defining role in their lives. A church that refuses to acknowledge these realities might find it hard to attract Boomers and Busters.

◆ **Fulfillment:** Baby Boomers have had great expectations.

month on a 5% mortgage for a four bedroom house on one acre of land...

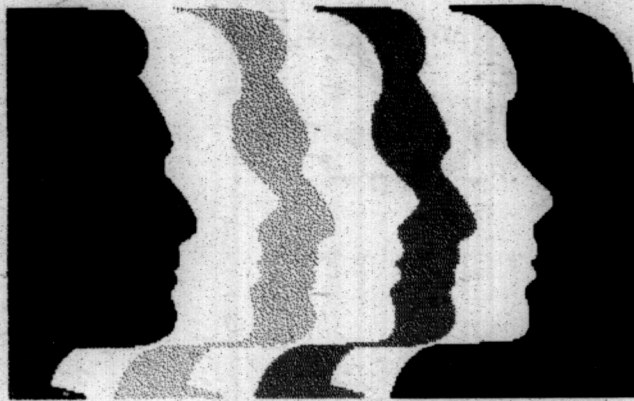
"My husband and I, with a combined income slightly lower than my father's, pay \$1,500 a month on a 9% mortgage for a five-room bungalow slightly larger than my parent's deck. Yet, we feel lucky to own a house at all!"

While Boomers started with

## 1996 U.S. GENERATIONS UNDER AGE 50

Generation	Born	Age	Number
Baby Boomers	1946 to 1964	32 to 50	77.82 million
Baby Busters	1965 to 1976	20 to 31	46.67 million
Baby Boomlet	1977 to 1994	2 to 19	69 million

Source: Projected U.S. Population by Age, U.S. Census Bureau



tastes and styles of music, as well as the morals, traditions, and economy of the country by the sheer fact of their numbers.

Starting soon after the year 2000, they will challenge the Social Security system as older boomers reach retirement age.

The years 1946 to early 1964 produced the Baby Boomers, thus named because of the tremendous boom in the birth rate as GIs returned home from World War II.

Baby Busters is a reference to the generation of Americans born from 1965-1976.

They are called busters because of the decline, or bust, in birth rate following the World War II baby boom.

Baby Boomers represent almost 30% of the population of the U.S., according to the U.S. Census Bureau. It is the largest generation in history.

While Baby Busters constitute only 17% of the population, they are still the second largest generation in U.S. history.

Together, they make up over 47% of the total population.

Ranging in age from the early 50s to late teens, these generations are the driving force behind politics, economics, education, entertainment, and religion.

In any given election, Boomers and Busters can make their will become political reality.

To a large extent, the future of the church in the U.S. culture will be played out in the lives of these two generations.

The dynamics between them are felt in several areas:

◆ **Education:** Baby Boomers are the best-educated generation in history. Some refer to them as the "B.A." generation, because so many went to college to pursue a basic liberal

## Mississippians receive NOBTS degrees

In addition to Sidney William Thompson receiving the doctoral degree, several students with Mississippi ties received other degrees from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises on Dec. 13.

Receiving degrees were Jason Carl Gross, Shreveport, La., pastor at Macedonia Church, Meridian - Master of Divinity; David Eugene Wilson, Pascagoula - Master of Divinity degree with a specialization in church history and theology; Todd Patrick Sumrall, Ocean Springs, associate pastor at Providence Church, Hattiesburg - Master of Divinity degree in psychology and counseling; and William P. Howell, Lucedale, minister to families at First Church, Niceville, Fla. - Master of Divinity degree with a specialization in pastoral ministries.

Also receiving degrees were Dale Funderburg, Amory, pastor of Grace Memorial Church, Gulfport - Master of Arts in Christian Education degree; Andrea S. Case, Brookhaven - Master of Arts in Christian Education; Mary Kraft Byrd, Raleigh, ministering to children and youth at Union Church, Raleigh - Master of Arts in Christian Education; Jennifer R. Enzor, Ripley - Master of Arts in Christian Education; and



DOCTORATE AWARDED — Sidney William Thompson (left) of Union received the Doctor of Ministry degree in biblical studies from New Orleans Seminary during commencement exercises Dec. 13. Thompson considers Neshoba Church, Union, to be his home church. He stands with the seminary president, Charles S. Kelley Jr.

Christopher Shane Dufrene, Amory, youth minister at Meadowood Church, Amory - Master of Arts in Christian Education.

Receiving Master of Music degrees were Michael James Peeler, Meadville, minister of music at Riverside Church, River Ridge, La.; and J. Kerry Jenkins, Natchez, associate pastor and minister of music at Linden Church, Linden, Ala.

Receiving Bachelor of Arts

great expectations and found disappointments, Baby Busters are cynical from the start.

They have questions about the future. Who is going to pay the Social Security bills for the huge Baby Boomer generation before them?

They see the quality of life going backward, not improving. They lack optimism.

One generation's high expectations set them up for disappointment.

The other generation's low expectations are a formula for hopelessness.

Both generations are ripe for the real hope-giving message of the Gospel.

## Clarke auction set for Jan. 11

An auction is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 11, on the Clarke College campus in Newton to dispose of remaining personal property from the now-closed junior college.

Items to be sold can be inspected on Jan. 9-10, and on Jan. 11 from 8 - 10 a.m.

Terms for purchase are cash, certified check, or letter of credit.

Items purchased must be removed from the Clarke property by Jan. 15.

A comprehensive list of major items to be sold is available from Gillentine Auction Group, 207 North Church Street, Tupelo, MS 38801. Telephone: (601)842-6328



# 'Process model' to be utilized at NAMB

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — The organizational structure of the Southern Baptist Convention's (SBC) new North American Mission Board (NAMB) will follow the "process model," according to the Implementation Task Force (ITF).

After months of study and dialogue with consultants and a "wide range of Southern Baptist leaders," the ITF determined the most effective method of organization for NAMB was a "process model," according to David E. Hankins, chairman of the NAMB transition communications team and vice president for convention policy for the SBC Executive Committee.

The model was approved at a meeting in Atlanta Dec. 10.

The ITF is a 10-member committee appointed by the SBC Executive Committee to assist in the restructuring of the denomination, called "Covenant for a New Century," as approved at the 1995 SBC annual meeting in Atlanta.

NAMB will officially be birthed following the June 1997 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in Dallas.

NAMB is the new agency resulting from the merger of the Home Mission Board, Radio and Television Commission, and Brotherhood Commission.

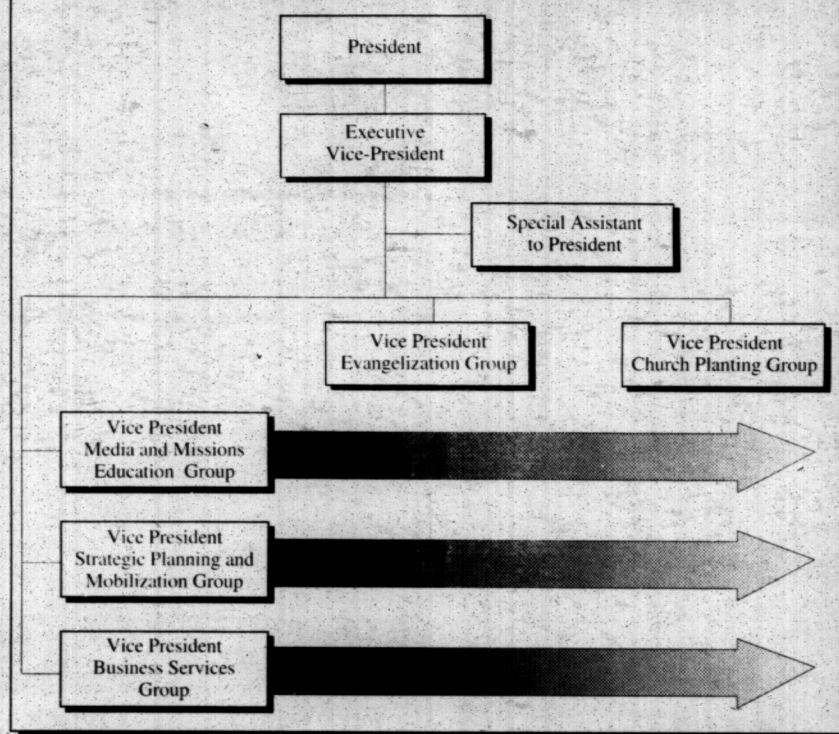
The "process model,"

according to ITF members, begins with the mission statement and builds the organization around the processes (tasks or activities) that contribute to accomplishing that mission.

It is a model often used in corporate structuring, accord-

minister to persons in the name of Christ and to assist churches in the United States and Canada in effectively performing these functions" is the mission statement of the NAMB as adopted in the "Covenant for a New Century."

## North American Mission Board



ing to the ITF.

"To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, start New Testament congregations, and

The "process" organizational model centers on the two primary processes: evangelism and church planting, Hankins said.

"A significance of the organizational model for NAMB is that it is a 'matrix' design rather than a hierarchical design.

"The advantages of the matrix, or grid, organization are increased cooperation, communication, flexibility, and rapid response," Hankins said.

In this model, people are encouraged to work outside their own compartments as team members, he pointed out.

This guards against a bureaucratic mind-set, the limitations of narrow job descriptions, and turf protection. It requires less middle management and more teamwork, Hankins explained.

An evangelization group will give leadership to SBC churches in direct evangelism strategies such as witness to various faith, cultural, and age groups.

The group also will provide strategic assistance to event or mass evangelism.

The church planting group will develop the process for the objective of starting New Testament congregations.

In the NAMB model, Hankins said, the two primary processes — evangelization and church planting — are assisted in their tasks by three support areas: the media and mission education group; the strategic planning and mobilization group; and the business services group.

# 1996

## TOP TEN LIST

### MISSISSIPPI STORIES

1. FMB holds missionary appointment service at First Church, Jackson
2. "Gaylon" anti-gambling series of articles
3. Redesign of "The Baptist Record"
4. Former MC president Lewis Nobles pleads guilty to federal charges, is sentenced to 7 years
5. Covenant of Cooperation approved by 1996 Mississippi Baptist Convention messengers.
6. MC receives \$25 million gift for capital campaign
7. Miss. Baptists minister at Atlanta Olympic Games
8. Memphis Baptist hospital signs casino contract
9. (tie) Foreign missionary Larry Braswell of Miss. injured in Brazil auto/truck accident

Petal woman wills \$257,000 to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions

### NATIONAL STORIES

1. 27 states post record Cooperative Program receipts
2. SBC passes anti-Disney resolution in New Orleans
3. SBC messengers give final approval to restructuring
4. True Love Waits goes "Thru the Roof" at Georgia Dome in Atlanta
5. Southern Baptists minister at Atlanta Olympic Games
6. Baylor University drops dancing ban
7. Kurdish refugee stories
8. SBC Cooperative Program gifts set new record
9. (tie) Jerry Falwell joins SBC, then says he didn't

Fla. Baptists define cooperating church

Source: compiled by ballot of "The Baptist Record" staff

## Miss. GA's make quilts



Staff members of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union inspect one of the quilts made by Garaway campers this summer: (from left) Alvena Williams, Nancy Seals, Jan Cossitt, Marjean Patterson, Shelia Stanford, and Stephanie Pruitt

### Quilts going to New Orleans homeless shelter

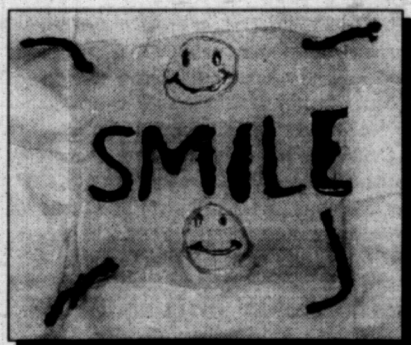
More than a dozen quilts made by GA girls at Camp Garawya this summer are going to help homeless people keep warm during the winter at the Clovis Brantley Center in New Orleans.

"Girls at GA camp this summer hand painted quilt squares during craft time," according to Shelia Stanford of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU).

A dozen or more volunteers hand stitched the squares into quilts, Stanford added.

The quilts will be sent to Mississippian Kay Bennett, a home missionary serving at the Brantley Center in New Orleans. The quilts will be used as bed covers in the homeless shelter.

One of the quilts was kept at Camp Garawya for display.



## SWBTS awards degrees to Mississippi students

Southwestern Seminary awarded over 400 degrees in its commencement ceremonies held on Dec. 14. Bradford S. Hummel of Carriere received the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Others receiving degrees included: Benjamin Todd Howard of Columbus, now serving at First Church, Fayette, Ala.,



Hummel

Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages; Heath E. Joiner of Ripley, Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages; Joanie Michelle Vasko of Newhebron, Master of Arts in Religious Education; and Howard Clay Chancellor of Quitman, Diploma in Theology and the Graduate Diploma in Theology.

## Sanderson to serve as Newton/Scott DOM

Robert Sanderson has been called as director of missions for Newton County and Scott County Baptist Associations (Newton and Scott area program.) He will begin his work in the area on



Sanderson

Jan. 15. His previous place of service has been with Springfield Church, Morton, where he served for seven years.

Sanderson, a native of Poplarville, is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

He and his wife, the former Amy May of Tylertown, are the parents of four children and nine grandchildren.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Fifth and sixth-grade Sunday School class** of Grandview Church, Pearl, raked yards during November and raised \$230 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Sunday School teachers are Norma Mangum and Lynn Weems.



**James Netherland** was honored at Terry Road Church, Jackson, on Dec. 1 with "James Netherland Appreciation Day." He was presented a plaque for serving as music director for seven years. At the close of this special service, Henry J. Bennett, pastor, baptized Clara Waldrop, 85, the oldest person he had baptized in his 53 years of pastorate.



**First Church, Vancleave**, held a note burning service on Oct. 27. The church had borrowed \$550,000 in 1988 to build a new worship center and adjoining education and office space. The note originally went 15 years but the church retired the debt in eight years. Pictured, from left, are Greg Potts, pastor; Vic Johnson, chairman of the building committee; and Jesse Winstead. Johnson and Winstead were trustees when the note was signed in 1988. Palmer Murphy, now deceased, was the third trustee.

## Former Miss. pastor dies

**T. Howard Taylor**, a native of Webster County, died Dec. 21. Services were held at First Church, Eupora, on Dec. 24. He was pastor emeritus of First Church of Sweetwater, Longwood, Fla. Churches he served in Mississippi included Poplar Creek, Kiln; Michael, Mt. Vernon, Eupora; Double Springs, Cumberland; Chapparral, Waynesboro; East Louisville, Louisville; Calvary, Greenville, and Arlington Heights, Pascagoula. Survivors

include his wife Sarah Taylor; daughter, Melanie Taylor, Sanford, Fla.; son, David Taylor, Orlando, Fla.; sisters, Mabel Stovall, Daleville, and Bessie Henley, Gulfport; and William Taylor, Eupora.

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## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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YB PQLKBMBZ PQZ LPXZ,  
EF, X LBB CFIM RBQ  
EFFLB, KPEGXQH XQ  
JYB RXZLJ FC JYB CXMB,  
PQZ JYBS YPOB QF  
YIMJ; PQZ JYB CFMR FC  
JYB CFIMJY XL EXGB  
JYB LFQ FC HFZ.

ZPQXBE JYMBB: JKBQIS-  
CXOB

Clue: *Sequels Y*  
Have fun with cryptography, and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Eight:Thirty-nine.

## STAFF CHANGES

**Fellowship Church, Lauderdale County**, has called **Jimmy E. Williams** as pastor, effective Jan. 1. He formerly served as pastor of College Hill Heights Church, Oxford.

**Jacques M. Kearns**, minister of music at First Church, Sylvania, Ga., retired on Dec. 22. After graduation at New Orleans Seminary in 1956, he served for three years at First Church, Biloxi, and Alta Woods Church, Jackson, for seven years.

**Sue McAllister** has resigned as minister of students at Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

**Pinelake Church, Brandon**, will celebrate 25 years of ministry on Jan. 12. Dinner on the grounds will be served in the gym. For more information, call the church office at (601) 992-2630.

The church is now receiving resumes for a position of minister of youth. Contact **Smokey Young**, Harrisburg Baptist Church, 1800 West Main, Tupelo, MS 38801.

**Lakeshore Church, Jackson**, has called **Durrell Young** of Jackson as minister of youth effective Nov. 17. He received his education at Mississippi College.

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**CHOIR ROBES & accessories**, pulpit/judicial robes, paraments. MURPHY ROBES/Mac's Robes, Charles McGlocklin, Authorized Dealer. Statewide 1-800-898-MACS.

**EUROPEAN TRAVEL:** I am a conservative Baptist minister that is coordinating a tour to England and Scotland in June 1997. For more information contact Timothy Hamblin in Birmingham at (205) 979-0381 between 9:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.

**CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH** of Eureka, Missouri is prayerfully accepting resumes until March 15, 1997 for a dynamic, full-time Youth/Music Minister to serve in a rapidly growing community. Send resumes to Central Baptist Church, PO Box 66, Eureka, MO 63025, Attn: Search Committee.

**POETRY WANTED: JOYFUL NOISE** is a subscriber-written Journal of Christian Poetry. Especially open to unpublished and

"unknown" poets. Inspirational and devotional poetry only. Writer's guidelines available for S.A.S.E. Sample Copy, \$5. Joyful Noise, Box 401-M, Bowling Green, KY 42102.

**LOWERY ORGAN.** Excellent condition. Has all the fun attachments. \$600.00. Eugene Culpepper, 459 Broad St., Forest, MS. Phone 601-469-4222.

**YOUTH GROUPS NEEDED** for summer missions: For information, cities, dates, costs call 800-299-0385. Youth on Mission, Box 2095, Rocky Mount, NC 27802.

**CAMP LAKESIDE, SCOBEE, MS**, is seeking a camp caretaker to handle lawn care, pool and minor maintenance. Send resumes to the North Central Baptist Association office, 1045 Fairfield Ave., Grenada, MS 38901. 601-226-5071.

**PEWS & PULPIT FURNITURE FOR SALE.** Emmanuel Baptist Church, Ruston, LA is renovating! Sanctuary furniture including colonial pews (9,10,14 feet) in mahogany & white with gold cushioning, two (5 ft) pulpit pews, communion table, pulpit, and music stand are to be sold. Available January 1. If interested contact the church office (318) 255-0446 or write: Renovation Committee, 1200 Farmerville Hwy., Ruston, LA 71270.

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## BIBLES AVAILABLE

Editor:

The Trans-World Bible Society that was launched on Oct. 15 is now prepared to supply free, the New King James paperback Bibles (5 1/4 x 8 1/4) — with the help of the American Bible Society — to any and all churches or individuals within churches (but not limited to such) that desire to participate in prison ministry.

These Bibles cannot be sold. They can only be given to inmates within prisons, for this is a specialized approach to ministry within prisons.

Those engaging in the above type of prison ministry will have only to order the Bibles directly from The Trans-World Bible Society: 6489 Quail Hollow, Suite 100, Memphis, TN 38120. Telephone (901) 752-1133. All orders for 100 or more will be shipped free of charge to those who distribute them.

The Bible order will be filled in the order in which requests are received, so long as the budget of the TWBS allows, and we hope there will be no delay in the filling of the orders in this respect.

For churches not already engaged in prison ministry this

should be a glorious witness to Christ.

R. Paul Caudill  
Memphis

## THANKFUL FOR CHURCH

Editor:

Straight Bayou community is situated like the middle of an hour glass between Greenville and Greenwood to the north and Vicksburg and Jackson to the south.

Situated amongst the farmland and catfish ponds is a local church that originated 105 years ago.

A couple of years ago my

family and I sensed God's call to this congregation. Little did we know in September 1994 that we would need this church more than they would ever need us.

My father was diagnosed with terminal cancer this past September. At that time my dad did not know the Lord Jesus, and he lived a nine-hour drive (one way) from me. What an exhausting burden my family now had.

The people of Straight Bayou Church rallied around us. Every other week, and sometimes every week, I venture up to see my dad for a three-day weekend. I spend valuable time with him, serving and witnessing.

Church members keep in touch with my wife and sons while I am away. No one begrudges my absence in any way. Their strength and encouragement undergirds my family and me.

I am told by the bitter and agitated that heartless churches exist. Move these musty thoughts over, and let this one simmer like the sweet smells of potpourri: I honor Straight Bayou Church because I want to honor Christ, her head. I praise my Lord Jesus for allowing me to be a part of this church and even more serve as her pastor.

Lamar Frizzel, pastor  
Straight Bayou Church  
Anguilla



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Letters to the editor

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (While church membership is not required, Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

# Staying Well Informed

## Get Back In Shape

What are your New Year's resolutions? If you're like most of us, you've probably made resolutions in the past, only to have your enthusiasm fizzle after a couple of months. The key to success is keeping your goals simple, attainable and fun. Maybe you've resolved to work off some of those holiday pounds with a fitness program.

Despite our abundance of healthy food, Americans are some of the least fit people in the world — and Mississippians are near the bottom of the list. Lack of regular physical activity has been estimated to cause more than 250,000 deaths in the U.S. each year.

Participating in regular exercise can decrease your risk of some types of cancer, heart disease, stroke, diabetes and a number of other killers. Studies have shown that being in shape helps raise self-esteem. At Mississippi Baptist Fitness Center, trained counselors help you find ways to achieve your fitness goals.

Let's consider the example of Ellen, a housewife and busy mother of three school-aged children. In between taking her children to soccer practice and music lessons, she often thought about joining a gym or fitness center. Where would she find the time? She was so tired at the end of each day. As months went by, she began to feel more and more drained. And, despite constant activity, she kept gaining weight.

After talking with a friend, Ellen called Baptist Fitness Center and scheduled an interview with a fitness counselor. She found trained personnel who helped her feel at ease and choose exercises and machines she felt comfortable with. Once she established a regular exercise schedule that fit in with her hectic day, she found her endurance growing, her waistline diminishing and the pounds disappearing. She felt renewed and confident. She felt like a new person.

If you're feeling a little like Ellen, you may want to resolve to participate in a regular exercise program. A few minutes every other day can establish lifetime behavior — and enhance the quality of your life. Mississippi Baptist Fitness Center can help you begin. For more information, call 968-1766.

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for reservations or more information.



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## MISSIONARY NEWS

**John and Elizabeth Merritt**, Baptist representatives to Germany, are in the States (address: 2030 Hyman Place, New Orleans, La. 70131). He is a native of Hattiesburg. The former Elizabeth Pope was born in Mobile, Ala., and lived in Chicora.

**Robert and Beverly Thomas**, Baptist representatives to Yemen, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 70080, Ibb, Yemen). A native of Tennessee, he was born in Etowah and lived in Memphis. The former Beverly Puford was born in Memphis, Tenn., and grew up in Senatobia.

**Matt and Shea Williams**, missionaries to East Indonesia, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: Jl. Hegarmanah 77, Bandung 40141, Indonesia). Both are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Yazoo City and considers Gautier his hometown. She is the former Shea Dungan of Natchez.

**Charles Everitt**, a native of Pelahatchie and former superintendent of missions in Mississippi, has been moved to the Evergreen Nursing Center, 1115 N. Wenthe, Effingham, Ill., 62401. Mildred, his wife of 55 years, died Nov. 28, 1996.

**Robert Barnes** recently retired after 14 years as professor of church history and theology and director of PRAXIS (a program which gives students the opportunity to start churches through a summer semester) at New Orleans Seminary. Trustees named him professor emeritus of church history during their October meeting. Barnes is currently serving as a pastor in Angie, La.



Barnes

**Billy E. Simmons** served as professor of New Testament and Greek at New Orleans Seminary from 1976 until he recently retired.



Simmons

Trustees named him professor emeritus of New Testament and Greek during their October meeting. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. Simmons first pastored at Washington Church, Nealy, in 1956. He is now servicing as interim pastor of First Church, Long Beach. His address is 714 Dogwood Drive, Long Beach, MS 39560.

**William Jeffrey Mann** of Ellisville received the Master of Divinity degree from Southeastern Seminary during Commencement Exercises on Dec. 14. Mann, a graduate of William Carey College,

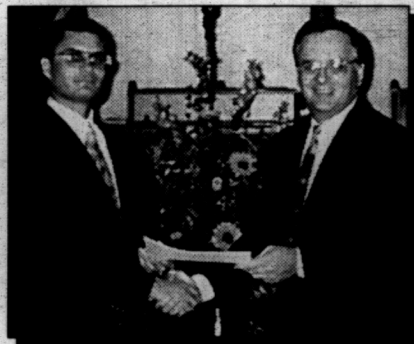
Hattiesburg, is minister of youth at Calvary Church, Emporia, Va.

**Bob and Flora Holifield**, Foreign Mission Board missionaries in Italy, retired Nov. 1. They can be contacted at 163 Cole Road, Hattiesburg, MS 39402 or phone (601) 296-7930.



McKee

**First Church, Vancleave**, ordained **Randy McKee** as deacon on Sept. 22. The church also recognized William Moore for 50 years of service as a deacon at First Church. Pictured, from left, are McKee, Greg Potts, pastor, and Moore.



Crosby

**Bruce Crosby** was ordained to the ministry on Dec. 1 at Bogue Chitto Church, Bogue Chitto. Crosby has been called to serve as pastor of Unity Church, Pattison. He is currently enrolled in New Orleans Seminary. Crosby and his wife Kathy have three children, Emily, Jill, and Lori. Pictured with Crosby (left) is Bill Hudson, pastor of Bogue Chitto Church.

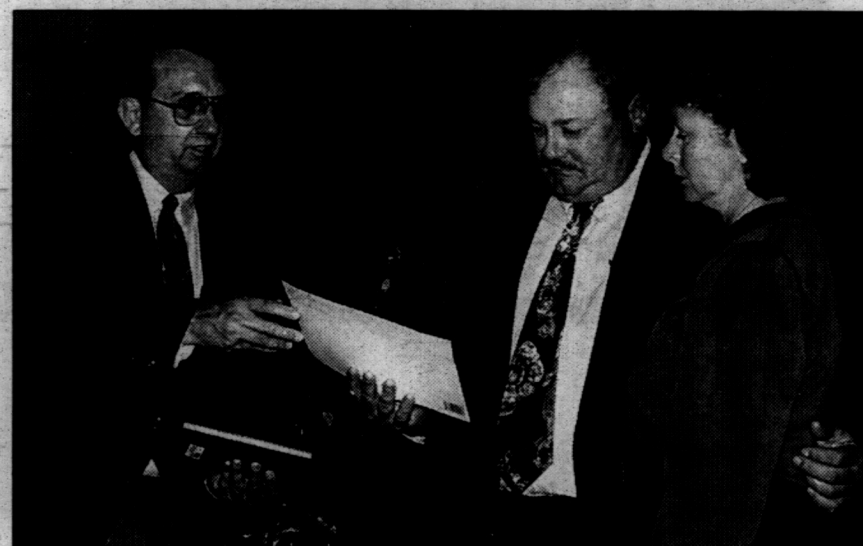
**Clyde B. Little** was honored Dec. 8 at Bay Springs Church, Bay Springs, upon his retirement. He has served as pastor at



**Robert E. Calvert**, pastor of First Church, Ashland, was honored on Dec. 10 for his six years of service to the Baptist Memorial Health Care System board of trustees. Calvert was elected to the board by the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



**Olivet Church, Gulfport**, recently held a deacon ordination service for **Charles Nalley** and **Howard Mays**. Pictured from left are Nalley and his wife Becky; Mays and his wife Marie; Robert Dyess, chairman of deacons; and Richard Colwell, pastor.



**David Weems** (center) pictured with his wife Mary, received a certificate of ordination as a deacon in Shivers Church, Shivers, from Farris Smith, director of missions for Simpson Association.

Bay Springs Church for 12 1/2 years. He and his wife Maxine were presented a plaque, a hand made quilt showing the history of WMU, a pillow signed by the children of the church, a lead crystal piece, and a monetary gift. Little is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. During his 43 year career in the ministry he served the following Mississippi churches: Learned; Chapel Hill, Utica; Mount Zion, Brookhaven; Collins; Magnolia Street, Laurel; Forest; Bay Vista, Biloxi; and Bay Springs. Following retirement, Little and his wife will make their home in Bay Springs.



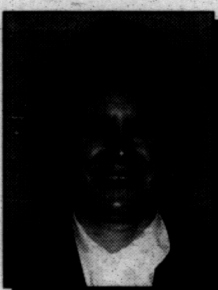
Little

**Lavelle Reid** was ordained a deacon on Oct. 13 at North Columbia Church, Columbia. Activities included ordination sermon by Philip Duncan, pastor; special music by Rex Lucas; and ordination prayer by Ralph Prine.

**Stacy Broadwater** of Cleveland received a Master of Divinity degree at Golden Gate Seminary. Broadwater is a graduate of Delta Junior

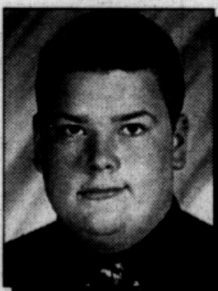
College, Moorhead, and the University of Mississippi.

**Martha Jane (Marty) Harper**, a Vicksburg native, recently joined the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center staff as Baptist Student Union Coordinator. She is a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary. She has previous served as interim minister of youth at First Church, Starkville; minister of youth and recreation at First Church, Terry; and held an internship under the minister of counseling at First Church, Jackson.



Harper

**Brad Ligon**, a member of First Church, Verona, surrendered to the ministry in August. He is the son of John and Sandi Ligon of Verona and is a senior at Tupelo High School.



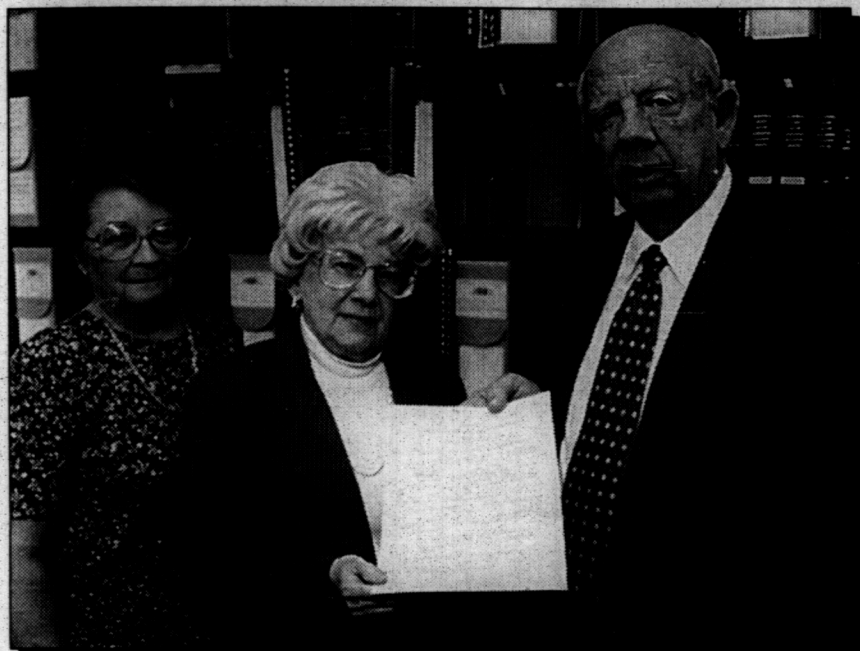
Ligon



## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS



The Blue Mountain College Court was presented Nov. 2 at the Junior Formal Dinner. From left are Rachel Hamilton, Tupelo, freshman maid; Elizabeth Dunlap, New Albany, sophomore maid; Meredith Roten, Ripley, junior maid; Brenda Whitworth, Ecu, senior maid; Christie Smith, Ramer, Tenn., senior maid of honor; Queen Amanda Briscoe, senior, Oxford; Felecia Hill, Pontotoc, senior maid; Robin Pennington, Pinson, Tenn., junior maid; Carrie Sanders, Senatobia, sophomore maid; and Elisha Bacon, Houston, freshman maid.



Alice Cox was honored recently upon her retirement at Mississippi College. Cox (center) accepted a resolution presented to her by Edward McMillan, executive secretary of the Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission. She has served as Special Collections Librarian for the Commission since 1977. Also pictured is Rachel Pyron who will fill Cox's position beginning in January. Cox will accompany her husband Prentiss Cox, professor of biology, to London where they will serve as resident professors in the Mississippi College London Semester Program.

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



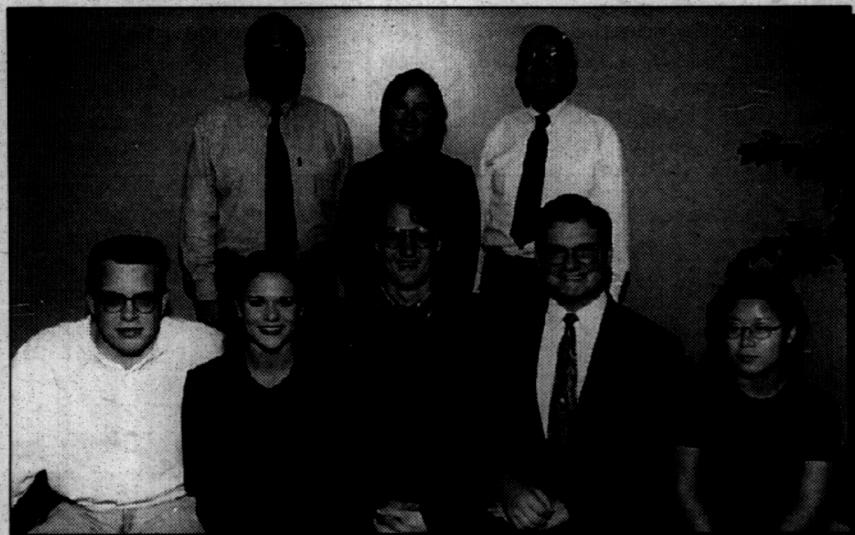
**Drawn Together**, a music group of the Baptist Student Union at Mississippi State University, is available to lead worship services, youth activities, and banquets. Members of the group, from left, are Emily Bailey, Vardaman; Alice Gill, Macon; Scott Hanks, Coldwater; Dusty Pittman, Clinton; Mary Rickles, Birmingham, Ala.; David Wiley, Jackson, and Michael Winstead, Morton. For more information call (601) 323-5761.

The Lucile Parker Gallery at William Carey College will present an exhibit of Selected Works from the art collection of Tougaloo College. An opening reception will be held on Jan. 9 from 5-6:30 p.m. The works will be on display through Feb. 13. For additional information call (601) 582-6192.

Office of Continuing Education, Mississippi College, will offer Real Estate courses scheduled to begin in 1997. The three courses offered and scheduled dates are: Real Estate Principles, Jan. 13; Real Estate Law, Feb. 17; and Real Estate Finance, March 31. For application information call (601) 925-3264 or 925-3263.

The Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy at Mississippi College is offering custom travel in Greece and the Mediterranean on their spring trip "Greece '97." Roger Greene, professor, will accompany the group. For more information contact Green at (601) 925-3291 (office) or 924-6503 (home).

The Mississippi College Office of Continuing Education is offering a variety of programs which is listed in the current "What's New for Spring 1997" brochure. To receive a brochure or additional information concerning continuing education classes, call (601) 925-3301 or 925-3265.



Mississippi College Department of Music was represented among finalists and winners in two performance competitions recently. In the National Association of Teachers of Singing Regional Auditions, Phillip Hill (third from left) of Jackson and Shelley Fairchild (second from left) of Clinton were first place winners. Farrar Strum (left) of Clinton and Ezra Wall (fourth from left) of LaCrosse, Wis., were finalists in their divisions. Jinie Choi (right) from Radcliff, Ky. was the state winner of the freshman-sophomore organ solo division in auditions sponsored by the Mississippi Music Teachers Association. Standing from left are Mississippi faculty members: Richard Joiner, professor and chair of the Music Department; Chandler Thompson, assistant professor, and Gerald Claxton, assistant professor.



Cedar Grove Church, Columbia, held a Recognition Service for its GAs and Acteens on Sept. 25. GAs (top photo), front row, are Tori Carpenter, Jessi Serrette, Kristina Stuckey; back row, Alex Christie, Katie Stuckey, Sara Stringer, and Ashley Fortenberry. Leaders for GAs are Carol Arthur and Patsy May. Acteens (bottom photo), front row, are Amanda Hillion, Lynn Fortenberry, Kayla Breland, Amanda Graves, LaShay Fail, Avery Brumfield; back row, Sarah Watts, Terri, Taylor, Jeni Beard, and Wendi Bourne. Acteens leaders are Grace Beard and Patty Watts.



*In a world  
filled with  
confusion...  
Is there any  
hope?*

**God's desire is to give you hope.**

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes..."*

Romans 1:16

**Sin robs us of this life of hope!**

*"For the wages of sin is death..."*

Romans 6:23

**Jesus cares for you!**

*"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."*

Romans 5:8

**It's your choice.**

*You must decide for yourself if you are willing to turn from your sins and ask Jesus into your heart.*

*"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved."*

Romans 10:9

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Southern Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



## LIFE AND WORK

### Lord of the spirit world

Matthew 8:28-34, 12:22-32

By Thad Moore

Authority is usually a hot topic of conversation. People want to know about political authority, economic authority, or military authority. Jesus was concerned about a higher kind of authority. He shows his authority over demonic power. He still has authority over false religions. Let us see how he uses his authority.

**Matthew 8:28-34.** Jesus had just calmed the storm and now he arrives in the region of the Gaderanes. Two men meet him who are demon possessed. They express their demonic activity through violence.

When Jesus meets them they ask him what is he going to do

with them. He cast the demons into a herd of pigs.

The demons obviously recognize the power of Jesus. They ask him if he is going to torture them before the end of time. The demons understood Christ's power for the present and were fearful of what he would do to them at the end of time.

Jesus has the same power and authority today. He stated in his great commission that he has all authority. No person, demon, false religion, or government can compete with Christ. We live in a world that offers psychic hot lines, fortune tellers, and a host of cults. Our lesson reminds us that Christ



Moore

has authority over them all. Our responsibility is to follow Christ now and accept his Lordship over our actions.

You would expect everyone in the village to be grateful for the works of Christ. After all, two men's lives were saved and the safety of the village was a certainty. However, the people of the village ask Jesus to leave. Maybe they were afraid of Jesus or perhaps they did not understand his works. Whatever the reason the villagers remind us of the sad plight of those who reject Christ. If people choose to reject Christ, he will not force his way on them.

**Jesus' Authority Disputed (12:22-24).** There is an old poem that states a timely truth: "Two men looked through bars. One saw mud, the other saw stars." Jesus had cast a demon out of another man, but some reacted negatively to Christ's ministry

to the man in need. Some asked if Jesus could be the son of David. Indeed, Jesus was the promised Messiah. Without any doubt Jesus is the Son of God. When you look at the ministry of Christ, do you see mud or stars? Often in life we find what we seek.

The Pharisees accuse Jesus of casting out demons in the name of Beelzebub. Beelzebub means Lord of the temple and Beelzebub was sarcastically called Lord of the Flies by the Jews. The Pharisees were trying to say the power of Christ came from an evil force.

**Matthew 12:25-29.** Jesus knew the criticism of the Pharisees was illogical. He counters with two arguments. The first argument is that Satan would not use his power against himself. Secondly, Jesus shows their argument to be arbitrary. When the Pharisees performed the same kind of miracle they did not attribute it

to Satan. There was no basis for attributing the activity of the Pharisees to God while at the same time accusing Jesus' actions as evil. They were jealous of his popularity and rejected his authority.

The true meaning of the miracle was a revelation of the kingdom of God in the person of Christ. Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit and the Spirit was giving him the power to cast out demons.

We have a choice to make. We can be like the Pharisees who find something wrong with the ministry of Christ or we can freely submit to his authority. We live in a world that poses many answers to life's problems, yet the Scripture teaches only one answer: Jesus. As we submit to his Lordship we become a part of the Kingdom of God. Then we can experience his peace and joy.

Moore is pastor, First Church, Holly Springs.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Kingdom ideals

Matthew 19

By Mark Long

In Matthew chapter 19, Jesus continued teaching the implications of his suffering and death for the disciples' lives, as stated in 16:21. Jesus began traveling toward Jerusalem, teaching the disciples about the ideals of the kingdom. The teachings are the result of misunderstandings the disciples had concerning the kingdom. Jesus taught other people. Jesus showed that only humble conformity to God's ideals is appropriate for God's people.

**Marriage and Commitment (19:3-6).** As Jesus pressed toward Jerusalem, his trials increased. The Pharisees approached Jesus to test him. More than an attempt to cause Jesus to do wrong, the Pharisees' question tested Jesus' mettle. Would he

allow himself to be placed in the crossfire of pharisaical factions?

One group of Pharisees believed Deut. 24:1 allowed divorce for any reason, another that it allowed divorce only because of sexual infidelity. However, both groups assumed the validity of divorce in God's kingdom.

Jesus showed his mettle. He always deferred to God's order for his creation. Evolutionary thinking understands relations between the sexes as a propagation of the species, or as something convenient and self-satisfying. Thus, the marital relation is expendable, or at least something which can be negotiated to meet the desires of the parties involved.

From a creation point of view, the permanent estate of



Long

matrimony between a man and a woman is God's order for his creation. The two become one flesh. Sex is for the marriage relationship only. God joins the husband and wife. Man has not the right to separate what God unifies.

Jesus' question, "Haven't you read...?" showed that the Pharisees totally missed God's intent for his people. God's people should strive to live up to his standards, not find excuses to validate their demise.

Verses 8-9 indicate that a spouse who desires to divorce his/her spouse and remarry commits adultery (sin). Why? Because it is not in God's order for his creation.

Discussions about absolute standards in marriage are often avoided because of sympathy for the traditionally church-despised and rejected divorcees. Only an arrogant sinner would condemn another equally guilty sinner. Christian humility recognizes all

of us are sinful and guilty. There is no room for sinful lifestyles in the kingdom. However, there is also no room for condemnation (Matt. 7:1-5) in the kingdom.

**Singles and Celibacy (19:10-12).** The disciples' own depravity evidenced itself in their response to Jesus' affirmation of God's standard. Their response seemed to be that life-long marital fidelity is virtually impossible, thus it would be better to never marry.

Jesus affirmed that singleness is perfectly legitimate in the kingdom, but only for those who are given the gift of celibacy (a eunuch). "Not everyone can accept this word," (v. 11) probably referred to the statement by the disciples. The alternative to marriage is celibacy. Marriage may be difficult at times, but life-long celibacy is difficult also.

Jesus showed that singleness is not a sign of incompleteness in the kingdom. Some are celibate because of birth defects, some because of surgical procedures (today's sex changes?), and others because of volitional abstinence. Whatever the rea-

son, wholeness in life is determined by one's relationship to Jesus, not sexual activity. Abstaining from the marital relationship, and devoting oneself fully to the kingdom, is perfectly acceptable to God. Life-long marital fidelity and celibacy for the kingdom are both virtuous and very demanding.

**Children and the Kingdom (19:13-15).** Parents brought children to Jesus for him to lay hands on and bless. Proving the point that children are in fact humble in state (see 18:2-4), the disciples obstructed the children's access to Jesus. Why? Maybe Jesus was busy teaching, or healing, or resting. The point is, the disciples did not think it important for the children to have access to Jesus.

Jesus rebuked the disciples, teaching them that children, and those in a similar state, are just as important to God as anything else. The reader cannot help but recall the greatness of the humble in the kingdom (18:1-4).

Long is pastor, First Church, Perkinston.

## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Choosing right priorities

Luke 10:38-42; John 12:1-8

By Mary Ellen Powell

Life in the fast lane. We seem to all be living there. But how much of our fast paced lives are spent on the things that truly matter? That is the focus of this lesson—the things that truly matter.

The Busy Worker and the Contented Listener (Luke 10:38-42). In the first of the two accounts of Jesus in the home of Mary and Martha, we see a clear picture of two different personalities and their relationship to Jesus.

As these verses begin, Jesus and his disciples drop by their home. One reason Jesus felt comfortable visiting unexpect-

edly is Martha's hospitality. Martha was an excellent hostess. She cooked, food, entertained the guests, and straightened up after them. While Martha took care of the guests, Mary sat quietly at the feet of Jesus.

In families and churches today, we have many such conflicts. Often, two people who work or live together view situations differently and choose different priorities. Whose priorities are best? Jesus, when confronted by Martha, stated, "Mary has chosen what is better." Was Martha wrong to tend to her guests? No, but in the presence of the Savior, tempo-



Powell

rary things can wait. When we make poor choices concerning our priorities we can be encouraged by Jesus' response to Martha in that he did not scold her for her actions. Jesus responded to Martha with love and compassion and gently pointed her toward what she needed most to spend time with him. How many times has Jesus needed to do the same to us, but we were too busy to listen?

**The Costly Gift (John 12:1-3).** The second account of Jesus at Mary and Martha's home took place only six days before the Passover and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Again, Martha was serving her guests, but in this account we learn more about Mary as she performs a beautiful act of adoration. Mary gave something precious to Jesus without

considering the cost. She gave in total humility; not considering herself worthy to anoint Jesus' head, she anointed his feet. She gave without regard for what people thought. A Jewish woman in that day would never have appeared in public with her hair unbound, but Mary was totally self-conscious in her love for Christ. What an example for us. What things do we need to give to Christ? What prevents us from worshiping Jesus with the selfless abandon that Mary showed?

**The Voice of Contempt (vv. 4-6).** In the midst of this beautiful act, Judas spoke in condemnation of Mary's actions. Why did he speak against Mary? Perhaps Mary's wholehearted devotion made him uncomfortable, even angry. When there is sin in our hearts, we rush to find the "speck" in our brother's eye. Regardless of his

motives, his words betrayed the bitterness of his heart.

**The Voice of Love (vv. 7-8).** After Judas condemned Mary's actions, Jesus brought the entire event into perspective by saying that there are things we can do almost any time and then there are things we will never do unless we "seize the day." Mary had a choice that day. She could have put off her actions and helped her sister, but she would have missed her chance to worship Christ. We make choices every day about priorities. The way we spend our time and money shows what is truly important, so what is it in your life that ranks at the top of the list? If it's not Jesus, then you need to "seize the day" and make a choice to live a life of doing "the best thing," living a life devoted to Christ.

Powell is a member of First Church, Clinton.



# Mississippi legislators begin '97 session

By Paul G. Jones II  
and Elizabeth K. Holmes  
Christian Action Commission

The 1997 Mississippi Legislature convened at noon on Tuesday, January 7. The Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) has identified issues of importance to Mississippi Baptists, from among the more than 500 bills pre-filed by Dec. 31, 1996.

Readers can contact legislators in their home district, or in Jackson during the legislative session at P.O. Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205-1018. The Legislature's telephone number in Jackson is (601) 359-3770.

For more information on the legislative session, contact CAC at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

## ABORTION

Senate Bill (SB) 2055 prohibits partial-birth abortions and establishes criminal penalties.

SB 2087 prohibits possession of the abortion-inducing drug mifepristone (commonly known as RU 486) and establishes criminal penalties.

## CHURCH/STATE

House Bill (HB) 35 prohibits an insurer from increasing a policy premium after an accident claim, if the accident is not the insured's fault. This could protect churches from insurance premium increases.

HB 61 requires a moment of quiet reflection and contemplation in public schools at the beginning of each school day.

SB 2029 clarifies that prayers by student volunteers are permitted on public property during non-compulsory school events.

HB 169 increases to a felony the penalty for killing livestock for ritual purposes, such as satanic sacrifice.

HB 270 requires the disclosure of certain identifying information on containers used to solicit charitable contributions.

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 2 authorizes rewards for information regarding illegal firearms on school property.

HB 21 allows testing for AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases for perpetrators of sexual offenses.

HB 132 revises the distance from schools and certain other places that involve enhanced penalties under drug laws.

HB 170 prohibits jailers from engaging in sexual conduct with prisoners.

SB 2001 prohibits the awarding of weapons as prizes at carnivals and like concerns to any person under age 21.

SB 2007 requires that a victim or victim's family member be notified of a parole hearing, and provides for victim testimony.

SB 2021 mandates as hate crimes with enhanced penalties such gang activities as initiation crimes.

SB 2028 revises the age for which a person can be prosecuted for gratification of lust.

SB 2042 provides that a person convicted of a second rape offense be punished by chemical castration.

## DRUGS

HB 103 requires holders of alcoholic beverage on-premises retailer permits to carry certain liability insurance.

HB 118 provides that the penalty for sale of alcohol to a minor shall be a fine of not less than \$1500 and not more than \$50,000, and provides for one-year revocation of retail permit.

HB 126 provides that persons under age 18 with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of more than .02 shall be considered intoxicated and in violation of the implied consent law.

HB 192 revises the BAC level from .1 to .08 for a charge of driving under the influence (DUI), and establishes a BAC of .02 for minors charged with DUI.

HB 194 establishes a .01 BAC for a DUI charge involving persons under age 21.

HB 218 increases the list of physical injuries punishable under DUI laws.

HB 246 prohibits the suspension of DUI sentences.

HB 288 provides for the testing of elected officials for unlawful drug use.

HB 306 increases the number of employee positions subject to alcohol and drug testing.

HB 314 provides that a person convicted of three DUI offenses use a distinctive license plate.

HB 341 provides for the immediate seizure of driver's license for violating implied consent laws, and prohibits the possession of open alcohol containers by motor vehicle operators.

HB 342 provides for the confiscation of motor vehicle license plates for DUI offenses.

HB 343 makes it unlawful to possess a firearm while under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance.

SB 2008 prohibits the advertising of tobacco products within a certain proximity to schools.

SB 2009 restricts accessibility of tobacco products through public vending machines.

SB 2010 prohibits smoking in state office buildings.

SB 2057 authorizes the State Tax Commission to issue a package retailer's native wine tasting permit.

## EDUCATION

HB 8 requires the teaching of African-American history and drug/alcohol education in public high schools.

HB 52 requires public school courses in responsible sexual behavior and the prevention of

alcohol abuse/illegal drug use. It also prohibits encouraging children to engage in illegal conduct.

HB 318 provides for the teaching of abstinence as a method of birth control in the comprehensive school health education program.

HB 319 requires all public high schools to provide a mandatory course on human rights emphasizing slavery, genocide, and the Holocaust.

SB 2086 provides that high school students who are parents must attend parenting classes as a required component of the comprehensive school health education curriculum.

SB 2089 directs local school districts to implement a comprehensive K-12 program for character education.

## FAMILY

HB 27 creates the Commission on the Restoration of the Family to foster appreciation for the family unit.

HB 31 prohibits the rental of hotel rooms to unmarried persons under age 18, and prohibits the rental of motel rooms for less than 24 hours except in certain circumstances.

HB 40 revises the age of sexual consent to 17.

HB 208 revises the age of sexual consent to 16.

HB 57 requires marriage license applicants to be tested for sexually transmitted diseases in addition to syphilis.

HB 71 deletes natural impotency or a penitentiary sentence as grounds for divorce, and includes irreconcilable differences under habitual cruel and inhuman treatment as grounds for divorce.

HB 217 includes irreconcilable differences among the grounds for divorce.

HB 175 provides that there shall be no presumption that child custody should be awarded to the mother during divorce proceedings.

HB 186 provides a state income tax credit of \$5000 for the adoption of a child.

HB 284 provides that the identity of persons making false reports of abuse shall be disclosed, and such people shall not be immune from liability.

HB 295, HB 346, House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 15, and SB 2053 provide that marriage between persons of the same sex be prohibited and not legally recognized.

SB 2013 provides that grounds for termination of parental rights or for adoption shall include abandonment of the child, regardless of age, by the natural parent for a period of six months.

SB 2054 provides that criminal record checks shall not be required for certain volunteers

or prospective volunteers providing services to children, if direct supervision is maintained.

SB 2088 provides that no employee of a child care facility or institution shall be punished for reporting information on child abuse or participating in a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom.

## GAMBLING

HB 26 authorizes state community colleges, junior colleges, and senior colleges to offer limited gambling-related courses.

HB 58 prohibits the operation of bingo games within 1500 feet of a library, school, nursing home, hospital, or church, unless the restriction is

waived by the institution.

HB 59 imposes a temporary additional fee on the gross revenues of gambling facilities to be used in non-gambling counties for bridges and roads.

HB 60 revises the meaning of the terms "slot amusement machine," "gaming device," and "slot machine," denying local authorities the right to regulate non-payment machines that have a "free play" feature.

HB 98 prohibits cash- and credit-producing machines on the premises of licensed gaming establishments.

HB 128 limits the location of gambling vessels to the Mississippi River and bodies of water that are part of the river.

HB 236 requires gambling license applicants to present in their advertisements personal loss experiences on an equal basis with personal winning experiences.

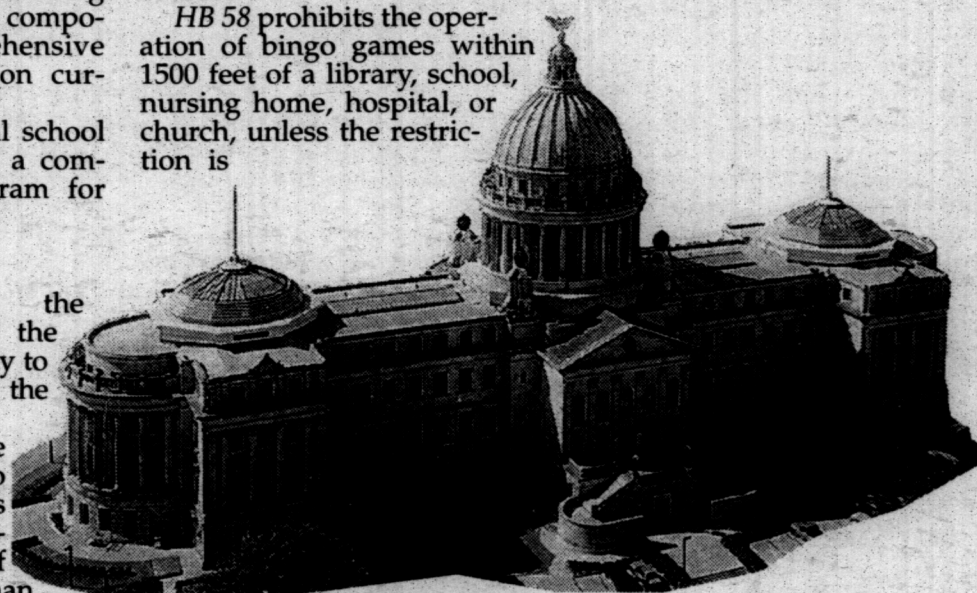
HB 280 provides that charitable organizations domiciled in the state with gross proceeds of less than \$20,000 from bingo shall be exempt from regulations of the state Gaming Commission.

SB 2092 provides that persons with felony convictions who have been law-abiding citizens for at least seven years after conviction may be granted a work permit as a gaming employee.

## WELFARE

SB 2027 directs the state Department of Human Services to conduct the "Work First" welfare restructuring program on a statewide basis, subject to applicable federal waivers.

## REPORT FROM THE LEGISLATURE





# Jesus key to land mine victim's ministry

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP) — Land mines are everywhere in Cambodia, and so are their unsuspecting victims.

Stepping on a land mine usually means losing more than a limb. It often means losing job, home, and family as well. It sometimes means losing hope.

"Because they are disabled, they think

cross for us, for everybody, and on the third day, Jesus rose," Rith said.

Rith has been taking that testimony to other disabled land mine victims in Phnom Penh, so they, too, might have hope.

One key worker with Cooperative Services International (CSI), the Southern Baptist humanitarian aid agency, prayed a handicapped Christian like Rith would come forward to impact land mine victims for Jesus Christ.

"Many have lost wives. They have no means of being able to support themselves. They have no house. They have no food," the CSI worker said. "Rith is able to identi-

al biography and other details about their receptivity to the good news of Jesus Christ, there were 29 handicapped who made professions of faith during that three-month period," the CSI worker said.

Because disabled people could access it easily, the base of a Buddhist temple high on a hill was chosen for a worship place for these new believers. Rith preached his first sermon there Nov. 4, 1995, to 31 amputees.

Since that first meeting, about 100 people have accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior just as Rith, 36, did when he was 28. Rith baptizes the new Christians only after they understand the commit-

## Christian work in Cambodia filled with difficulty, danger

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (BP)—In Cambodia, the desire to share Jesus' name is a tedious, dangerous and sometimes deadly struggle — even today.

When a Baptist volunteer shared the gospel with a group of Cambodian women in their primitive home, she learned villagers had been told they were not to follow Jesus Christ.

One woman said some Christians once lived in that village, but one by

district leaders and other government officials. They even still come face-to-face with dreaded Khmer Rouge rebels.

Whatever the threat may be, accepting Christianity often means stepping into danger. So Christians are few — but strong.

One woman was abandoned by her family when she decided to follow Christ two years ago.

Now she harvests lotus nuts to support herself. She offers her house as a place of worship on Sundays and every evening.

Her husband and two children live within a mile of her home but never come to see her.

Cambodian pastor Leng Sovann oversees more than a dozen churches.

Although Leng and others serve despite hardship, many Cambodians long to hear truth.

Volunteer groups, invited to Cambodia by the Khmer Baptist Convention, have been reaching some of them.

One searching man's question posed to volunteer Mark Hopkins illuminates the need.

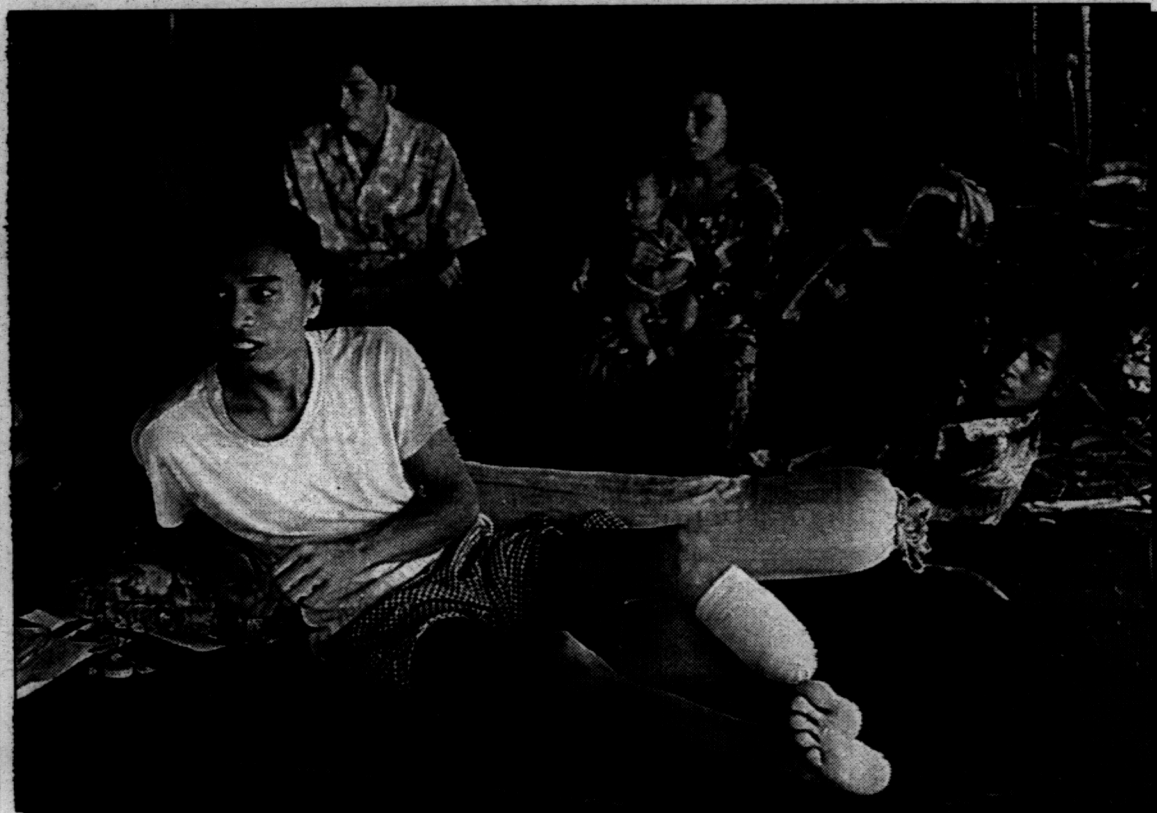
Recalled Hopkins: "He asked, 'Did your God create every country, even Cambodia?'"

"Then why did it take so long for someone to come tell us?"

they are useless with a meaningless life," said Iv Vanna Rith. "They are concerned about their living every day."

Rith, executive secretary of the Khmer Baptist Convention, knows what it is to survive as a land mine victim. A small land mine blew off his left leg just beneath the knee. Unable to support his wife, he lost her. But unlike many land mine victims, Rith did not lose hope.

"I have testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ who died on Calvary on the



UNIQUE MINISTRY — This young man in Cambodia who lost his leg in an explosion is like many to whom Iv Vanna Rith ministers. Rith, executive secretary of the Khmer Baptist Convention in Cambodia, lost his own left leg just below the knee in a land mine accident. Stepping on a land mine usually means losing job, home and family for the unsuspecting victim. Rith himself lost his wife when he was unable to support her. Now, he tells other land mine victims that Jesus Christ offers new hope. (BP Photo by Warren Johnson)

fy with these people and minister to them effectively."

Rith learned the Scriptures while living in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand from 1981-89. There he discovered the importance of prayer.

"I had nothing for food, nothing. When I was in starvation, I started to pray again to God. Two days after my prayer that we would have food, they brought food to the Thai border camp," Rith said.

When Rith returned home to Phnom Penh, he brought nothing but his Thai Bible with him. He eventually began attending Russey Keo Baptist Church. There he received his calling to the ministry and began to pray for God's direction.

In 1995 he accepted a job surveying the handicapped for CSI.

"While he was conducting the survey to ask such information as felt needs, person-

ment to Christ that baptism symbolizes. He has baptized 11 physically handicapped Christians and one of their spouses.

"There were limbs. There were crutches, just everything along the river bank. They would take (their prosthetic devices) off and then swim out to be baptized," the CSI worker said.

"One man had both legs missing. We just picked him up and kind of set him in the water, and he made his way over to where he was baptized. It was just awesome."

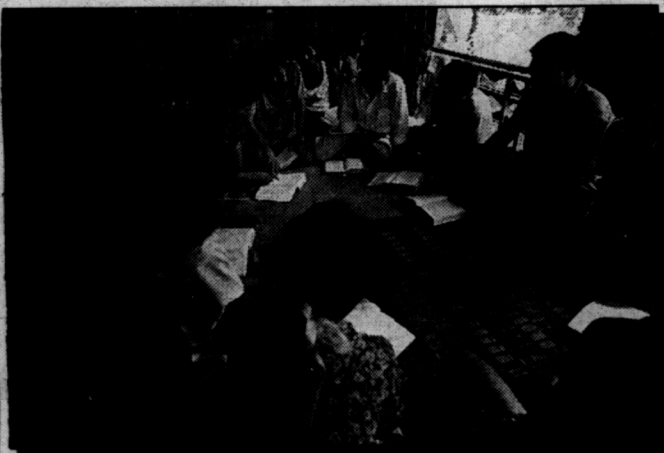
The "church" Rith started at the foot of Wat Phnom now meets in six groups throughout the city. Rith meets with each group about twice a week, once for discipleship training and once for worship.

God also has used Rith to impact the life of another handicapped Christian man who has been called by God as an evangelist to others who are disabled.

"The man Rith has been discipling one-to-one went on his own to a district where we have no existing churches and began to do some evangelism," the CSI worker said.

"On his first encounter to the area, he had nine professions of faith. Well, in a month, they had about 21 decisions. There's a little pocket of believers that's meeting in this location now."

Rith, who also administers a small loan program funded by CSI to help handicapped people get established in small business, sees his ministry as a gift from God. "As Jesus has given us hope, we want to give them hope," he said.



HOUSE OF PRAYER—In Cambodia, this house church meets and thrives near the village of Tum Natrach. Sometimes sharing Jesus' name is dangerous, but Cambodians continue to grow in character and numbers. (BP Photo by Warren Johnson)

one, they mysteriously disappeared.

In Cambodia, Christians do disappear. They are abandoned. They must work within boundaries set by



Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

Life Answers is on hiatus until Jan. 16.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.